



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL AIR STATION MEMPHIS
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Ser 0101/000306
25 JAN 1995

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. J. Carter S. Gray
Memphis/Shelby County Health Department
Pollution Control Division
814 Jefferson Avenue
Memphis, TN 38105

Dear Mr. Gray:

This letter is to confirm a November 30, 1994, telephone conversation between Mr. Rob Williamson of the Naval Air Station (NAS) Memphis Public Works Department, Environmental Division, and Mr. Lee Sherrill, Jr., of your office, regarding test results from the ongoing Direct Push Technology (DPT) investigation at NAS Memphis. DPT was used as a screening technique to investigate suspected past disposal areas.

On November 30, 1994, results from water samples taken on November 29, at depths of approximately 40 feet (in the upper zone of the fluvial aquifer) just south of Hanger N-126, showed a 60-85 ppb level of 1,1-dichloroethene (DCE). Soil samples taken at the same location at intermediate depths of 10-12 feet and 20-22 feet, however, were below detection limits. Samples were analyzed by an on-site mobile laboratory for halogenated and aromatic volatile organic compounds using a gas chromatograph with a detection limit of 5 ppb. Since then an independent laboratory, using a gas chromatography mass spectrometer, has confirmed findings ranging from 5.4 ppb of cis-1,2, dichloroethene to 320 ppb of 1,1, dichloroethane, at several sampling points within the immediate study area.

As you know, the shallow fluvial aquifer is not used by NAS Memphis or the city of Millington for drinking water. However, due to the proximity of this site at NAS Memphis to the two deeper (Memphis Sands aquifer) wells, these wells were immediately sampled and analyzed the same day as a precautionary measure to ensure the integrity of the potable water supply for the Base. These test results were below detection limits for halogenated and aromatic volatile organic compounds. We have tested the two Memphis Sands potable water wells on a weekly basis and have found the same results. As an added precautionary measure, we have temporarily ceased operation of the well closest to the contamination.

We conducted additional DPT investigation in the area to better define the scope and extent of the DCE contamination.

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Based on the results of this work, and in consultation with Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV, we will place monitoring wells at the site in January 1995 and establish appropriate remedies.

We will keep you informed as additional information becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Tonya Barker at (901) 873-5461.

Sincerely,

D. J. CLARK
Lieut. Col. USN
Commanding Officer
Naval Air Station Memphis

Copy to:
NAS Memphis Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Members

